

**City of Bloomington Traffic Commission Minutes
July 27, 2016 in the Council Chambers, City Hall**

Traffic Commission minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings of the meeting are available in the Planning and Transportation Department for reference.

****The first 10 minutes of the audio recording for this meeting did not record due to microphone technical difficulties****

Attendance

Traffic Commission: James Batcho, Andrew Cibor, Ryan Cobine, Judi Maki, Abigail Pietsch, and Sarah Ryterband

Others in Attendance: Norm Crampton, Chris Shelton, Dave Rollo (District IV), Neil Kopper (Staff), and Scott Robinson (Staff)

- I. Call to Order (~5:30 PM)**
- II. Approval of Minutes** – April 27, 2016. Mr. Cibor motioned, as corrected, and Ms. Maki seconded, to approve the minutes. **The motion passed 5-0.**
- III. Public Comment** – Mr. Crampton addressed the Commission on his safety concerns at the intersection of The Stands Drive and Rogers Road. He did his own traffic counts and provided his observations on vehicle speeds, topography, sidewalks and pedestrian activity, transit and school bus services, and traffic signs. He compared this intersection and its many similarities to the Moores Pike and Olcott Boulevard intersection. He would like to see similar improvements done at The Stands Drive and Rogers Road. Mr. Robinson said an improvement project is planned for this area. The Commission would like to have a report from staff on this project at their next meeting.
- IV. Communications from Commission** – Mr. Cibor provided an update on a number of on-going or upcoming city transportation projects. Mr. Cibor noted two important public hearing and information meetings for the Tapp and Rockport project and the Winslow and Henderson project. He said the Henderson and Winslow project will also include the Walnut Street Pike intersection. Information for these and other projects is available on the City's website.
- V. Reports from Staff**
 - A. Title 15 Updates** – Mr. Robinson thanked the Commission for their past efforts on Title 15 recommendations. The City Council adopted most of the Commission's recommendations at their July 21th meeting. The one

exception was the parking changes proposed along East 1st Street were modified through an amendment that only restricted parking on the north side of 1st Street, east of High Street.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business –

A. S. Fess Avenue - revise current on-street parking configuration near the intersection with E. Hunter Avenue to increase visibility and sight line distances* - Mr. Robinson gave an overview of this request as detailed in the packet. Mr. Kopper described the evaluation process and recommendations to alternate the parking along S. Fess Avenue. He did note that while the number of crashes were low over the 9 years he looked at, all showed similar causes, which is why staff is making this recommendation. Mr. Shelton said he first wanted an all way stop, but agrees with staff's recommendation as a good idea. Ms. Ryterband said she was concerned about the timing if this were adopted by Council later in the year. Mr. Cibor said the City could issue a 90-Day Order until the Council could consider this change. This would allow staff to implement this before most students return. Ms. Ryterband motioned to approve as detailed in the staff report with the conditions that notification and a 90-Day Order be utilized before school starts; Ms. Maki seconded. **The motion passed 6-0.**

B. Intersection of E. Southdowns Drive and S. Mitchell Street – remove the stop controls on E. Southdowns Drive or maintain and codify the existing 3-way stop intersection* – Mr. Robinson gave an overview of this request as detailed in the packet. He explained the history behind this request and some of the challenges and options for the Commission to consider. Mr. Rollo (District IV) said the SoMax Neighborhood is supportive of the current all-way stop condition and he would like to see one stop sign be moved away from the driveway at 525 Southdowns. This is a specific request of the adjacent property owner as stopped vehicles can block their driveway. This route is a convenient way to Indiana University and Bryan Park and traffic volumes and speeds can be high for a neighborhood street. The all way stop along with plans for a new sidewalk along Mitchell will continue to improve the neighborhood context. He would also like to see crosswalks markings added. The Commission discussed the placement of the stop sign and the options detailed in the staff report. Mr. Batcho felt that since the neighborhood is supportive of the all way stop then he is satisfied with this option. Ms. Pietsch motioned to codify this intersection as an all way stop with the stop signs in their same location, Ms. Ryterband seconded. **The motion unanimously passed 6-0.**

C. Henderson and Hillside parking – Mr. Robinson explained a development proposal is going before the Plan Commission for approval. The Commission has previously discussed the general need for policy guidance on parking configurations for on-street parking. This proposal is showing parallel parking along Henderson and pull-in angled parking along Hillside. Ms. Ryterband said it is time to consider back-in parking and explained the benefits it offers over the types we do elsewhere. This development provides a great opportunity. Mr. Batcho agreed and seconded her remarks. He mentioned the number of crashes related to the pull-in angled parking around the Square from the difficulty of backing out into traffic. Ms. Ryterband said she was fine with her statements being considered a motion. Mr. Cobine asked for a vote. **The motion passed 6-0.**

VIII. Traffic Inquiries –

A. E. Covenanter Avenue and S. College Mall Road – right turn on red restriction. – Mr. Robinson explained that with inquiries staff is seeking direction from the Commission on whether or not any next step(s) should be taken. This direction is based upon consensus from the Commission. The first request was received from Ms. Piedmont-Smith (District V) on behalf of one of her constituents. No one was in attendance to speak on this request, but staff did do some preliminary evaluation on the no turn on red inquiry. Mr. Kopper explained that very few accidents (only two) over the last five years for this busy intersection are possibly related to turning movements. He also said the signal switches to a flashing signal at night and this could create confusion. Poor sight distances alone is not a reason to restrict turns on red, Kopper said. In fact, vehicles should not be turning if they can't see to make a safe turning movement. Ms. Pietsch said commercial drivers are often restricted by their employer to turn on red regardless of what is permitted. The Commission agreed that restricting turns on red is not a good option to pursue.

B. E. 12th Street and N. Lincoln Street – install stop signs on E. 12th Street at this intersection. – Mr. Robinson explained that staff has conducted some traffic counts in this area in regards to speeding concerns. However, the counts were taken when IU was not in session. Mr. Ford said 12th Street provides a direct route to and from IU and Walnut Street and it is an option to 10th or 17th Streets. However, 12th Street is a residential street. Both 10th and 17th Streets are meant to serve more traffic needs. He said delivery vehicles and IU employees seem to use 12th as a quick alternative and speed. The speed limit is 25 M.P.H. but few signs are posted. He also recognizes the Fire Department may need to use 12th for their needs, but new developments along N. Walnut and the Downtown will add more demand on 12th Street. After listening to the Fess Street item, Mr. Ford thinks alternating parking might be another solution to consider. He would like something done to return 12th Street

into a neighborhood street. Mr. Cibor mentioned the extension of Woodlawn Avenue to 13th Street will be completed in September. It is expected this will change traffic patterns in the area. Other Commission members agreed that with new housing developments and the return of IU students more data should be collected. The Commission directed staff to conduct traffic counts along 12th Street after Woodlawn opens up and when students are back in school, identify the locations of speed limit signs, and evaluate changing the parking locations along 12th Street.

IX. Adjournment (~7:08 PM)
Next meeting – August 24, 2016

**Action requested*